Amendment to Consumer Protection Act

1769. SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH
SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state .

(a) whether the present Consumer Protection Act has proved insufficient;

(b) if so, whether Government are considering to further amend the present Consumer Protection Act;

(c) if so, the details of the proposed amendment stating the time limit, if any, for the amendment in the Act; and

(d) the effective steps taken/likely to be taken to implement the new Act to provide its facility to 70 per cent of rural people|consumers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) to (c) The Consumer Protection Act, 1986 was exhaustively amended in 1993 to increase its scope and to strengthen the redressal agencies envisaged in the Act. However, in the XVI meeting of the Central Consumer Protection Council held on 8th June, 1994, a resolution was passed to constitute a Working Group to examine the need to bring about changes in the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 and Rules in the light of experience gained, so far and difficulties which have arisen in many cases as a result of judicial pronouncements. The Working Group has since been constituted.

(d) The Act envisages setting up a three tier redressal machinery at the national, state and district levels where the consumers, both rural and urban, can file complaints for redressal of their grievances in the field of defective goods, defiencent services, unfair trade practices etc. As per information available, 455 District Fora are functioning in the country.

Amendment to Weights and Measures (Packaged Commodities) Rules(1977.

1770. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to the answer to Unstarred Question 1831 given in the Rajya Sabha on 7th March, 1994 and state whether large multinationals and domestic corporate majors have made any suggestions or urged the Government to deregulate the sale of certain commodities in packages by amending the Weights and Measures (Packaged Commodities) rules and if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): No, Sir. The amendment referred in the answer to part (b) of the Unstarred Question 1831 given in the Rajya Sabha on 7th March, 1994 was not on the suggestion of large multinationals and domestic corporate majors.

Proliferation inidentical pack sizes

1771. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIR AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that proliferation in the pack sizes whcih are identical to each other is detrimental to the consumer interest;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that soft drinks in 250 ml. and 300 ml. bottles are too close to each other and hence are not in the consumer interest as the size of the two bottles are very similar and hence difficult to differentiate; and

(c) if so, what action Government propose to take to protect the consumer's intrest?